

Grade 6.3.1 Wilson Fluency  
Where The Red Fern Grows

val ad twen fif de buck sum bea craw  
min fish kitch ley ver ty cide et mer ver  
fish nows man en tise ed ment er

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valley	advertisement	twenty	fifty
decided	bucket	summer	beaver
crawfish	minnows	fisherman	kitchen

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*A valley in the Ozark mountains is a great place for dogs,  
and Billy Colman wanted dogs more than anything else in the world.  
Not just one dog, but two. One day he came across a magazine  
with an advertisement for hound pups – twenty-five dollars each.  
But it was the time of the Great Depression. Billy didn't have fifty dollars for two pups,  
and neither did his parents. So he decided to work hard and save the money.  
Using an old baking-powder can as his bank, he started with just twenty-three cents.  
One way or another, Billy would get his dogs.*

All through that summer I worked like a beaver. In the small creek that wormed its way  
down through our fields, I caught crawfish with my bare hands.  
I trapped minnows with an old screen-wire trap I made myself,  
baited with yellow corn bread from my mother's kitchen.  
These were sold to the fisherman, along with fresh vegetables and roasting ears.  
I tore my way through the blackberry patches until my hands and feet  
were scratched raw and red from the thorns.  
I tramped the hills seeking out the huckleberry bushes.  
My grandfather paid me ten cents a bucket for my berries.

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